

U.S. Appl. No. 10/684,623
Amendment Date: Sep. 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 20, 2004
Docket No. 5853-119

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A system for identifying a presence of a creature disposed in a body of water comprising:

a passive transducer for receiving at least one vibrational wave emanating from said creature and generating at least one transformed signal responsive to said vibrational wave;

a signal processor for processing said transformed signal to indicate a presence of a particular type of creature which is disposed in the body of water; and

an indicator which communicates at least one warning signal responsive to a detection of said creature, wherein said indicator is mounted above a water line of a structure secured to the bottom of the body of water.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said indicator is selected from the group consisting of a visual indicator, an audio transducer, and a mechanical vibration device.

5. (Previously Amended) A system for identifying a presence of a creature disposed in water comprising:

a transducer for receiving at least one vibrational wave and generating at least one transformed signal responsive to said vibrational wave;

a signal processor for processing said transformed signal to indicate a presence of a particular type of creature which is disposed in water; and

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an indicator which communicates at least one warning signal responsive to a detection of said creature, wherein said indicator is a mechanical device operatively connected to a control system of a watercraft.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said signal processor comprises at least one counter, said counter measuring a number of creature detection occurrences.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said signal processor comprises at least one counter, said counter measuring a number of false creature identification occurrences.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a snap rejection module, said snap rejection module rejecting vibrational waves having a duration less than a predetermined value.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said signal processor detects a harmonic frequency content of said signal.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said signal processor measures an amplitude of at least one harmonic frequency.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said signal processor detects a maximum harmonic frequency.

13 - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a presence of a creature disposed in water comprising the steps of:

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receiving at least one vibrational wave and generating at least one transformed signal responsive to said vibrational wave;

processing said transformed signal to indicate a presence of a particular type of creature which is disposed in water; and

automatically controlling at least one operational parameter of a watercraft responsive to [[a detection]] an indication of a presence of the creature.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[15]] 18, further comprising the step of measuring a number of [[creature detection occurrences]] indications of a presence of the creature.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[15]] 18, further comprising the step of measuring a number of false [[creature identification occurrences]] indications of a presence of the creature.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[15]] 18, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of rejecting signals associated with vibrational waves having a duration less than a predetermined value.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[15]] 18, wherein said receiving at least one vibrational wave [step] comprises receiving a sound created by at least one of a vocalization, a translational movement in water, a slapping of water, and a clicking.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[15]] 18, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of detecting a harmonic frequency content of the signal.

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24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 18, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of measuring an amplitude of at least one harmonic frequency.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 18, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of detecting a maximum harmonic frequency.

26. (Previously added) The system of claim 1, wherein the creature is a manatee.

27. (Previously added) The system of claim 1, wherein the structure is a buoy.

28. (Previously added) The system of claim 1, wherein the structure is a sign pole.